

Town of Ridgway 2018 Spring Newsletter



Think Snow, Think Moisture

2017 brought new energy, many engaged voices, a new look downtown, infrastructure improvements, and some new employees to Town Hall. 2018 looks to be equally as exciting as we strive to support our community in creative, innovative and thoughtful ways. We look forward to bringing the community together as we embark upon a Master Planning process to keep our local government partnering with its citizens on key priorities, including workforce housing and growing our local economy.

Town Master Planning Begins in 2018!

Did you know that a Master Plan, sometimes referred to as a Comprehensive Plan, is the guiding document for the Town's future? The Town of Ridgway will be updating its Master Plan this year, and you are needed to help create it... your ideas will help shape the future of this incredible town! Look for opportunities to participate starting around May. In the meantime, think about what you love about this place and how you want it to look and feel in 20 years. We want to hear from everyone!

Housing

The community has clearly asked that the Town and its partners make housing opportunities a top priority. In the past year, the Town has responded by:

- updating existing short-term rental regulations, encouraging long-term housing,
- negotiating deed restricted housing units within new development proposals,
- sending a local team to a Community Builders Housing Institute in Glenwood Springs,
- hosting an educational follow-up dinner on the topic of housing with elected and appointed officials and government staff, and
- commencing predevelopment work on Ridgway Space to Create affordable live/work development (more on this below).

Efforts on this topic continue and include encouraging the building of accessory dwelling units (see flyer below), investigating revenue sources related to housing, and seeking to remove barriers and add incentives in the municipal code to promote more workforce housing options.



Do you love living, working and playing in Ridgway?

Our community is such a beautiful, desirable and inspiring place to be...
Let's encourage a variety of housing options for people to call home, while we strengthen our economy and maintain our unique character.

The Town and its partners have heard from the community that housing opportunities need to be a top priority. Encouraging the building of more Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) is one way to provide more places to live.

Funding available from
Citizens State Bank
& Alpine Bank




145 Sherman St,
Ridgway, CO
(970) 626-5462
csbcolorado.com



119 Liddell Dr,
Ridgway, CO
(970) 626-4100
alpinebank.com

What's an Accessory Dwelling Unit?

- A small residence located on the same lot as a single family home (attached or not).
- Includes the usual elements of a residence, just more compact.
- Known by many names, such as granny flats, in-law suites, backyard cottages.

Why are ADUs Beneficial?

- Provide long-term rentals at a good value.
- Provide rental income for property owners.
- Add housing to already developed areas, keeping town walkable and bikeable.

What You Need to Know

- ADUs are allowed in many residential areas of town.
- Can generally be up to 800 square feet.
- One off-street parking space for the ADU must be provided.
- Both residences on the lot need to be under the same ownership, and one must be occupied by the owner.
- Must comply with other Town regulations, such as setback and height requirements (Ridgway Municipal Code, Chapters 6 and 7).

Incentives to Build an ADU as a Long-Term Rental

- The new ADU can share the water and sewer tap, resulting in no additional tap fees.
- ADUs are charged a reduced monthly rate for water and sewer.

Here's what you can do:

- Spread the word about the benefits of ADUs.
- Consider building an ADU on your property.
- Explore financing options.

After giving this some thought, stop by Town Hall to talk with the Planning Department, as rules can vary depending on the property.

Short Term Rentals

The Town revised its short-term rental regulations in May 2017 to both provide opportunities for short-term rentals, where appropriate, while also encouraging more long-term rentals to house our locals. Revisions include, but are not limited to, requiring a license issued by the Town, as well as a cap on the total number of licenses the town will issue. To date, about 25 of the 50 licenses allowed have been issued.



Ridgway Space to Create

Toward the end of 2017, Ridgway Town Council entered into an agreement with non-profit developer, Artspace, to provide predevelopment services for Ridgway Space to Create, a mixed-use facility to be built downtown. Financial partners to date include: the State Department of Local Affairs, Boettcher



Foundation, and Colorado Creative Industries through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. These partners have provided nearly 90% of the costs of predevelopment. The total cost is expected to be covered with outside funding sources.

Initial predevelopment deliverables for 2018 work include: determining the project scope, assessing the site, developing conceptual architectural plans and budgets, identifying sources of funding for the project, schematic designs, proposals and applications for financing, site survey and engineering, final design, engineering

and construction documents, and a final financial package including secured funds for construction. Funding a project of this magnitude in our rural community will be very challenging, so we will be pursuing funding opportunities very early in the process. The predevelopment phase includes the delivery of final construction drawings for construction bidding but does **not** include the construction phase. Predevelopment is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2019, after which time the Town will consider moving into the construction phase of the project.

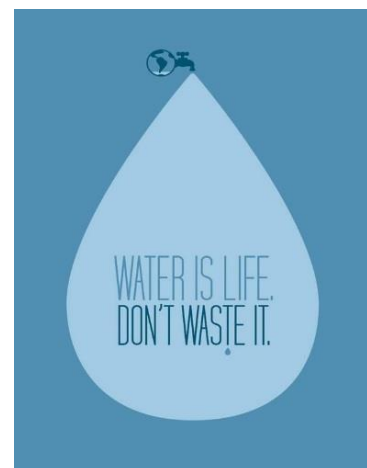
Thank you to our local partners: San Miguel Power Association, Region 10, Telluride Foundation, Weehawken Creative Arts/Chautauqua Society and the Ouray County Housing Advisory Committee for helping us make this project a reality!

All Things Water

Water Conservation

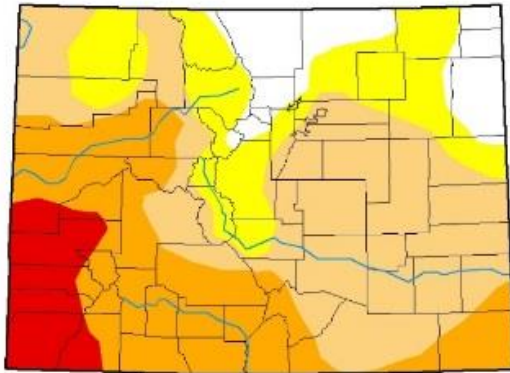
So far, it's a lean winter for precipitation with the entire state, and the West, in some stage of drought. In early March, Southwest Colorado looks most bleak in Extreme Drought status, and Ouray County in Severe Drought (see below map). Conserving water is always important, and this year, it is essential. Please do your part.

We will begin with voluntary water restrictions early in the season, limiting days and times where outside watering can occur. As



**U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado**

February 27, 2018
(Released Thursday, Mar. 1, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Deborah Ballke
National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Map released March 1 at
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CO>.

needed, we will progress into more restrictive water use. The Town Council is addressing this very important issue now. Please participate in the conversation, and be water wise.

Now is a good time to check for leaks in your own home: Leaky toilet? Shower head? Your irrigation system? Please double check for leaks and weak spots. This year may be a good year to rethink gardening, ensuring all plants are drought tolerant or xeriscape, low-water consumers.

Voluntary Outdoor Water Restrictions

(Does not apply to drip systems and use of hand-watering containers)

No irrigating between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, or when windy, in order to minimize evaporation, and anytime on Mondays.

Properties located on the SOUTH side of Hwy 62 & Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Properties located on the NORTH side of Hwy 62 & Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Uncompahgre River Overlay District

For the past eight months, the Town has been working on regulations to help protect the Uncompahgre River. This was prescribed in the 2011 Land Use Plan: “Preserve, restore, and re-engage the Uncompahgre River to strengthen the riparian corridor as an asset to the community.” There have been 12 public meetings to discuss this topic, and the Town has listened to interested citizens and property owners to understand their concerns and revise the draft regulations accordingly. The draft ordinance was introduced at the February 21st Town Council meeting and is scheduled for adoption at the regular Town Council meeting of March 14th.



Snow Melt on Sidewalks

As a friendly reminder, please note that salt is very corrosive to concrete, especially if poured in the last few years. Please be sure to use non-salt based de-icer on concrete sidewalks

Please Help Us Keep Sidewalks Clear and Usable!

Owners of properties abutting public sidewalks and boardwalks are responsible for snow removal on those public sidewalks and boardwalks. Owners may place the snow a few feet off of the curb and into the street (not the State Highway), and the Town crew will haul it away. If your property is on the highway, snow cannot be placed in the highway, but instead on a side street or other location where it can melt or be hauled away. Any storage and/or removal of snow that falls onto private property must be managed by the owner.

Please use only non-salt based de-icers on the public sidewalk. The newer sidewalks are very susceptible to long-term damage with any salt-based products. An example of a non-salt based de-icer is here: <https://www.safepaw.com/>.

Please Keep Parking Areas Clear Too

On days when more than 2 inches of snow are predicted, please park off-street so the crew can clear the parking areas and keep drainage-ways flowing. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! The Town's Snow Removal Plan brochure can be found on the Town website under Ridgway Updates.

Ridgway Marshal's Office



Slow Down
Enjoy the Scenery.
Effective December 8, 2017

SPEED 15 LIMIT

Questions? | Town of Ridgway | (970)-626-5308

The Town of Ridgway has reduced speed limits to 15 mph on all side streets with the exception of North Railroad to minimize dust and aid in the safety of pedestrians and wildlife around Town.

Victim Advocate Hired

As of March 12th, 2018, Elaine Wood will start as the new part-time victim advocate in Ouray County, based in Ridgway, through the Victims Assistance and Law Enforcement Fund grant. Elaine has extensive experience providing crisis support for victims and caregivers and collaborated with law enforcement agencies throughout the 7th Judicial District. She will work closely with Ouray County law enforcement agencies to offer victims of crime with assistance and resources to maintain compliance with the federal Victims Rights Act.

In addition, the Marshal's Office has two contract on-call victim advocates, ready to respond from Montrose and Delta Police Departments, to fill in the gaps, when needed.

The Marshal's Office has also stepped up interaction with Ridgway Schools, in an effort to maintain relationships with students and staff and encourage a culture of safety and trust.

Staffing

One additional part-time deputy, Monty English, has begun working with the Marshal's Office. Continuing on board are full-time Deputy Shane Schmalz, part-time Deputy Luis Perez, and fill-in Deputy Derrick Linnell. To increase consistency in countywide officers' responses, Marshal's office staff will continue to participate in training in conjunction with the Ouray Police Department.

Bike Lanes on Highway 62

Now that we have designated bike lanes along both directions of Highway 62 through downtown, parking is prohibited on the highway. Please be sure to leave bike lanes free for safe travel!

Electric Vehicle Charging Station



Lu Hauger receives check for the Town from Wiley Freeman and Paul Hora, SMPA staff, Jan. 21, 2018.

Through the Colorado Energy Office's Charge Ahead Colorado initiative, the Town was awarded a state grant to construct and provide an electric vehicle charging station (EVSE) for EV owners who live in and visit our beautiful town. In December of 2017, a dual-port EVSE was installed adjacent to Hartwell Park in downtown Ridgway. In January, the EVSE had 14 total charges in its first month of operation!

Changes in the Town Clerk's Department to Assist Utility Customers and Businesses

You can now pay your monthly Town utility payments online with a credit or debit card or by eCheck. To access the payment program, go to the Town's website, www.town.ridgway.co.us, and look for the graphic below. Payments can still be made in person or dropped off at Town Hall.



The Town has contracted with an off-site service provider, MUNIREvs, for monthly sales and lodging tax remittances and the issuance of sales tax licenses. This online service can be accessed at www.ridgway.munirevs.com or by calling 888-751-1911.

Of course, our staff is still here to assist you in any way we can!

San Miguel Power Association provided a match contribution as a partner with this project – THANK YOU, SMPA! – enabling funding for completion of project construction and highway directional signage for the EVSE. A huge thank you to volunteers **Dave Jones and Dixon Pratt** and Lu Hauger, staff, for their work that made this project possible!



Bears and Animal-Resistant Containers

Due to increased bear activity last year, the Town Council discussed animal-resistant containers and the possibility of mandating their use town-wide. Staff was directed to research various options, prices, and sizes of containers to identify the best means to address this issue for town and wildlife safety and resident ease of maintenance. After much discussion and the introduction of two draft ordinances requiring animal-resistant containers, the discussion was temporarily put on hold until re-bidding of the Town's contract for residential curbside refuse and recycling in early 2018. At the January Town Council meeting, staff was directed to include animal-resistant specifications in the request for bids, to better accommodate the Town's desire to eventually have all containers be animal-resistant. In fall of 2017, the Town purchased 11 animal-resistant containers for use in public parks, and 7 recycling/landfill bins were added downtown through the RAMP Furnishings process. This spring, the Town Council plans to consider regulations requiring all commercial and residential properties to have animal-resistant containers. Please participate in the discussion. More information is available on the Town website.

Recycling Containers for Parks

Coinciding with the Town's efforts to place animal-resistant containers throughout town, the Ridgway Ouray Community Council was awarded a \$9,000 grant in January 2018, to promote recycling in Ridgway's parks. This funding was provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through their Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity grant program. Thanks to the hard work and initiative of locals **Judi Chamberlin and Dave Jones**, the Town expects to purchase several animal-resistant recycling and trash receptacles to better incentivize sustainable practices in our parks.

Streets Maintenance

All paved streets in town (excluding the State Highways, which CDOT will do) will be swept from **April 2 – 6**. Please help us maximize this effort by moving your vehicles to allow the street sweeper to pass and clean as much as possible.

Street grading and magnesium chloride applications will commence on May 7th and continue through most of the month of May. Please be on the look-out for the schedule and additional details.

Creative Main Street

Creative Corridor Grant

A major effort for both the Ridgway Creative District and Ridgway Main Street in 2018 (in addition to Ridgway Space to Create) is the start-up of the Creative Corridor Marketing Grant, linking 5 towns with their creative districts for promotional purposes. The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce provided \$5,000 in match funding for this effort, as did each participating community. The Colorado Tourism Office awarded \$25,000 for the project. Partners in the other four towns are: Carbondale Creative District; Tourism Council of Carbondale; Salida Creative District; Chaffee County Visitors Bureau; Crested Butte Creative District; Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association; Delta County Tourism; and the Paonia Creative District. The project will invite visitors to celebrate Ridgway using the Chamber's five themes: Arts and Entertainment, Heritage and History, Health and Wellness, Culinary Experiences, and Outdoor Adventure. Each of these themes fits under the Creative District's emphases, except for the last—which is a primary reason people live and visit here. Signage indicating locations for Ridgway's visitor assets will be installed by mid-year, and creative enterprises will be encouraged to become as visitor-ready as feasible.

The Ridgway Creative District will apply to be recertified by Colorado Creative Industries for another 5 years as a State-certified creative district in March and learn of its status in June. Ridgway Main Street will pursue a higher level of status as a Graduate Main Street community as well.

Downtown Businesses and Accessibility

In 2017, the Town Council launched an ADA access program to assist local businesses with accessibility to their premises. This reimbursement grant program provides a free written assessment by an ADA accessibility professional of the interior and exterior of eligible businesses. These assessments provide businesses with a comprehensive review of accessibility for their property, as well as a plan to make improvements over time to become more ADA-compliant. Once assessments are completed, the Town will provide up to \$500 of additional funding to help businesses make proposed repairs



**ADA
ACCESS
PROGRAM**

When the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) went into effect in 1990, one piece addressed physical access to buildings. Unfortunately, there is still confusion about minimum legal requirements, and about what additional steps can be taken by business owners and tenants to ensure accessibility. To aid this issue, the Town of Ridgway has launched an ADA Incentive Program to provide business owners with a FREE ADA assessment and a \$500 reimbursement grant to kick off access improvements for eligible businesses.

and improvements. The Town funds are matching funds and will be sent as a reimbursement to applicants after improvements are completed. It is not required that each business make all proposed improvements to receive reimbursement, but this program is intended to kick-off improvements towards a more accessible community for all.

Parking Assessment

A downtown parking assessment will be completed by mid-year to assess current downtown parking conditions, forecast parking demand, and make recommendations for improving downtown parking to meet current and future needs. Colorado Main Street is providing technical assistance funds.



Wrapping Up RAMP Up Ridgway!

Final touches on the completion of RAMP Up Ridgway! were installed in December 2017. Thirty-nine bike racks, designed by DHM Design and fabricated by local **Kevin O'Brien**, have been installed downtown. Sculptor **Bryan Saren** assembled and mounted his downtown gateway sculpture called Focus at the corner of N. Lena and Sherman St. And don't you just love the designs the bollards make on the snow? Let's really put Ridgway's new amenities to good use!

Broadband

The Town continues to support and participate in efforts to bring improved, affordable and accessible broadband services to Ridgway and Ouray County. This is a regional effort through Region 10 and includes installation of a Carrier Neutral Location and fiber build-out to anchor institutions (Town Hall, Library, Fire Department, Schools, etc.). We have encountered significant challenges in acquiring the key fiber link from Montrose to Ouray but continue to work to make this happen. In the meantime, the Town installed underground conduit in key locations with the RAMP up Ridgway! project to facilitate the affordable installation of middle mile fiber.

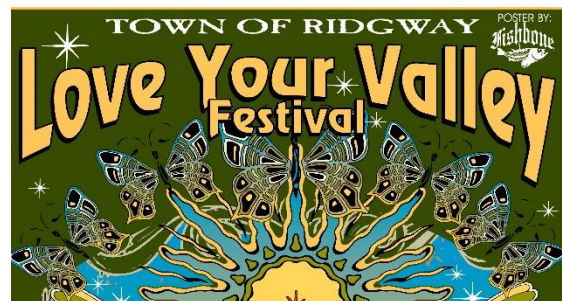
Events for Your Calendars

Love Your Valley Fest – Save the Date!

The annual Love Your Valley Festival will be held from 1:00 to 6:00 pm on **Saturday, May 12**, in Town Park. This is a free event with live music; micro-brew tasting for \$20 fee which goes to support the Ridgway Concert Series.

Annual Clean Up Day

Ridgway's Annual Clean Up Day will be **Saturday, April 28**, in the southern parking lot of the Athletic Park. Electronics recycling will also be offered that day.



Springtime Green

As spring progresses and the lovely greenery returns, please keep your lawns mowed and the weeds down!

Dogs

In order to sustain our town's dog-friendly style, dogs' guardians need to properly supervise their dogs, for everyone's safety. Ridgway does have leash laws and specific play areas for dogs. If you are responsible for a pup here, please familiarize yourself with the 2017 Mandatory Leash Areas in town and the "Leash Laws for Dogs" document on the Town's website (under the Resources/Documents tab and then under the Administrative Information and Forms button). Be sure to have your leash and "doggie" bag with you at all times!

2018 Priorities

Please take the opportunity to review the Town's 2018 budget to learn more about accomplishments in 2017 and the plan for 2018, found here - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ridgway/plans-documents-and-studies>.

Join Us!

Interested in participating in your local government efforts this year? Please let us know, and we will work to find a role for you.

Town E-Mails and Contact Information

Sign up to receive periodic emails, newsletters, updates, and agendas from Town Hall by going to the Town website, www.town.ridgway.co.us. Under "What's New," you'll find the link to sign up with your name and email address.

To contact staff at Town Hall, go to the website's Town Government tab and click on Town Staff Directory for email addresses and phone numbers.

Town Hall is open Monday – Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Keep current with these Town Facebook pages:

www.facebook.com/TownofRidgway

www.facebook.com/RidgwayCreativeDistrict

www.facebook.com/SpacetoCreateRidgway